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A NEW SPECIES OF *LACCOBIUS* FROM THE GREATER  
ANTILLES (COLEOPTERA: HYDROPHILIDAE)

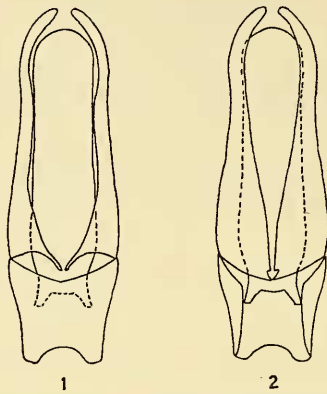
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The genus *Laccobius*, in the Western Hemisphere, occurs from southeastern Alaska and Canada through the United States and into Mexico. Most of the described species are found in the United States but an apparent hiatus occurs along the Gulf Coast states from Louisiana to Florida. In his revision of the American species of the genus *Laccobius*, D'Orchymont (1942) stated that although the means of dispersion are great enough the genus does not appear to be represented from the vast region of the southeastern United States or from the Antilles. He emphasized the fact that the genus was absent from Florida, a state whose water beetle fauna had been well explored and reported upon by Leng and Mutchler (1918) and Blatchley (1919). However, examination of older collections not seen by D'Orchymont and recent surveys of aquatic beetles made in the Greater Antilles revealed the presence of a single new species of *Laccobius* on Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

Present evidence suggests that this new species reached the Greater Antilles from Mexico or Central America where a number of species of *Laccobius* are known to occur. This assumption is supported by the fact that *Laccobius* is still rare from Gulf Coast states and has not been found in Florida even after the recent and very thorough study of the Floridian water beetles by Young (1954). The interesting new species from the Greater Antilles is described below.

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FIGS. 1-2. *Laccobius antillensis* new species, holotype, male genitalia: (1) ventral view, (2) dorsal view.

***Laccobius antillensis* new species**

Figures 1 and 2

Length of holotype male 2.75 mm.; greatest width 1.4 mm. Color of head piceous except lateral testaceous spot anterior to each eye; pronotum with piceous disc but broadly testaceous laterally; scutellum piceous; elytron testaceous except humeral macula, two maculae at midlength near suture, one macula near lateral margin and almost all punctures of serial rows of punctures dark brown. Venter dark brown except hypopleura and epipleura testaceous. Labial palpus light testaceous; maxillary palpus light testaceous with apices brownish; antenna light testaceous except last three segments of club darker brown. Leg testaceous except coxa, trochanter and basal two-thirds of femur brown.

Head distinctly microreticulate, moderately coarsely and moderately densely punctate, more densely so adjacent to eyes, punctures on frons separated by two or three times their width; labrum very feebly microreticulate, densely punctate with punctures smaller than those of head, feebly emarginate medially. Pronotum slightly more than twice as broad as long; distinctly microreticulate; moderately coarsely and moderately densely punctate; punctures slightly larger than those of head and those on disc separated by one to three times their width; finely margined laterally; submarginal row of punctures across base. Elytron without surface sculpture but with 10 serial rows of coarse punctures and a few coarser punctures scattered between rows; serial punctures slightly larger than those on head; finely margined laterally. Scutellum sparsely punctate, punctures smaller than those of pronotum or elytra. Front leg with coxa, trochanter and basal third of femur covered with

hydrofuge pubescence. Fore tarsus consisting of four segments; first segment expanded apically; second segment darker in color, expanded, with pubescent pad beneath. Middle leg with only coxa and trochanter pubescent; femur with few, small, seta-bearing punctures. Hind leg with coxa pubescent; femur impunctate. Venter with hydrofuge pubescence except posterior half of first and entire second abdominal sternum smooth. Prosternum longitudinally carinate. Mesosternum strongly protuberant medially, protuberance with strong anterior tooth and carinate posteriorly. Posterior half of first and entire second abdominal sternum shallowly concave; anterior and posterior edges of concavity lined with a sparse row of long, fine hairs; hyaline substance in concavity similar to that found in *Chaetarthria*.

Aedeagus (fig. 1 & 2) as illustrated.

*Female*: Similar to male but tarsus of fore leg normal, five segmented, not broadened, without pubescent pad beneath.

*Variations*: The two maculae on each elytron, near the suture, and the lateral macula vary in size and degree of distinctness. In a few specimens, the anteriormost and lateral maculae are practically absent and the posteriormost macula is greatly reduced.

*Holotype*: Male, Puerto Rico, Juncos, Rio Gurabo, XII-30-1962, Paul J. Spangler, USNM type No. 69502, deposited in the U. S. National Museum.

*Allotype*: Same locality and data as holotype.

*Paratypes*: Same locality and data as types, 21 ♂♂, 27 ♀♀; PUERTO RICO: nr. Buenos Aguas, Rt. 56, Km. 15.5, Rio de Bayamon, VIII-19-1961, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Flint and Spangler; Comerio, Rt. 156, Rio de la Plata, VIII-15-1961, 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Flint and Spangler; nr. San Lorenzo, Rt. 181, Km. 16, VIII-21-1961, 10 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, Flint and Spangler; nr. San Lorenzo, Rt. 181, Km. 9.1, VIII-21-1961, 7 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, Flint and Spangler; Toro Negro, Rt. 149, Km. 41.8, VIII-24-1961, 16 ♂♂, 16 ♀♀, Flint and Spangler; Toro Negro, Rt. 149, Km. 40.7, VIII-24-1961, 1 ♀, Flint and Spangler; Bayamon, Rt. 174, Km. 13.5, VIII-19-1961, 9 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, Flint and Spangler; Bayamon, Rt. 174, Km. 8.7, VIII-19-1961, 35 ♂♂, 26 ♀♀, Flint and Spangler; nr. San German, Rio Guanajibo, VIII-14-1961, 24 ♂♂, 24 ♀♀, Flint and Spangler; nr. Paso Seco Jct., Hwy. 31, Km. 15.4, I-8-1963, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, roadside stream, 400' elev., Paul J. Spangler; Magueyes, I-1-1963, 1 ♀, Paul J. Spangler. JAMAICA: Gordontown, II-4-1937, 1 ♀, Sta. 384, Chapin and Blackwelder; St. Catharine Parish, Hyde nr. Bog Walk, VII-23-1962, 8 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀, T. Farr, O. and R. Flint; Whitfield Hall, Blue Mts., nr. 4500 ft., VIII-13-20-1934, 3 ♀♀, Darlington (MCZ). HAITI: P. au Prince, 1934, 1 ♂, Darlington (MCZ); Ennery, nr. 1000 ft., IX-6-11-1934, 1 ♀, Darlington (MCZ); La Hotte, N.E. foothills, 3-4000 ft., X-12-1934, 1 ♀, Darlington (MCZ). DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: 25 Km. S. Pto. Plata, VI-1938, 2 ♀♀, Darlington (MCZ). CUBA: Soledad, Cienfuegos, X-17-1926, 1 ♂, Darlington (MCZ); Soledad, Cienfuegos, XII-2-1926,

Arimao R., 1 ♀, Darlington (MCZ); Soledad, Cienfuegos, X-19-1926, Arimao R., 1 ♀, Darlington (MCZ); Soledad, Cienfuegos, VIII-12-1934, Arimao R., 1 ♂, Darlington (MCZ).

*Comparative notes:* This species runs to couplet 5 in D'Orchymont's (1942) key, but it possesses some of the characters given in both rubrics of the couplet. It resembles *agilis* (Randall) by the "punctuation of the elytra less irregular, more or less chromatically aligned in fine brown lines," but differs from it by its smaller size and more elliptical shape. From *agilis* and the three species that key through rubric 5', *ellipticus* Le Conte, *mexicanus* Orch. and *californicus* Orch., this new species may be distinguished by the median lobe of the aedeagus which is very broad (fig. 1 & 2) from base to apex instead of being slender.

I am grateful to Dr. P. J. Darlington, Jr., for the opportunity to study the *Laccobius* he collected in the West Indies. These paratypic specimens are indicated by the abbreviation (MCZ) and are in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. All other paratypic specimens are from the collections of the U. S. National Museum.

Paratypes will be deposited in the California Academy of Sciences, British Museum (Natural History), Canadian National Collection, Museum Nationale de Histoire Naturelle de France, Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelle de Belgique, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Puerto Rico, and in the collections of Drs. R. Mouchamps and F. N. Young.

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